



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) experienced a two-tenths of a percentage point increase in the unemployment rate from November to December of 2000. The LMA's current rate of 4.0 percent is an increase from 3.7 percent in December of 1999 (see Northeast Table 1). The unemployment rate is nine-tenths of a percentage point lower than the state's rate of 4.9 percent, and the same as the national rate.

Over the month, the seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* decreased by 200 people. Extreme temperatures and winter storms have limited some winter construction work while closures and layoffs have affected other workers. The number of unemployed persons increased by 130 people and the number of employed persons decreased by 340 people. Over the year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 180 people, with an increase of 250 unemployed people. The yearly decrease in the number of employed was 70.

For December, Bonneville County had the lowest unemployment rate by far in the LMA with 3.3 percent, followed by Butte, Jefferson, and Bingham Counties at 4.3, 4.5, and 5.2 percent respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, had an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent for the month, falling one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month and staying the same as the previous year.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 330 jobs for the month. *Goods-Producing Industries* had decreases in every industry with *Construction (Heavy Construction and Special Trades)* shouldering the vast majority of losses, at 310 jobs. *Manufacturing (Nondurable Goods)* also showed a loss of 50 jobs. Both industries typically experience decreases at this time of year due to seasonal climate and market prices of commodities. The *Service-Producing Industries* showed an overall increase of 30 jobs, with small changes throughout each industry. Only *Government Administration (Local)* and *Transportation, Communication, & Utilities (Trucking and Warehouse)* showed decreases for the month. The largest increase, 30 jobs, was seen in *Wholesale Trade (Nondurables)*. While *Retail Trade* showed an increase of 10 jobs, the *General Merchandise* sector showed losses of 40 jobs following the 'after-Thanksgiving' rush.

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Dec 2000*	Nov 2000	Dec 1999	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,680	82,880	82,500	-0.2	0.2
Unemployment	3,290	3,160	3,040	4.1	8.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0%	3.8%	3.7%		
Total Employment	79,390	79,730	79,460	-0.4	-0.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	81,970	82,920	81,820	-1.1	0.2
Unemployment	3,130	2,670	2,950	17.2	6.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8%	3.2%	3.6%		
Total Employment	78,840	80,250	78,870	-1.8	0.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	8,560	8,920	9,080	-4.0	-5.7
Mining & Construction	3,520	3,830	3,850	-8.1	-8.6
Manufacturing	5,040	5,090	5,230	-1.0	-3.6
Food Processing	2,670	2,690	2,910	-0.7	-8.2
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	470	470	520	0.0	-9.6
All Other Manufacturing	1,900	1,930	1,800	-1.6	5.6
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	53,740	53,710	52,700	0.1	2.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,370	2,380	2,350	-0.4	0.9
Wholesale Trade	6,070	6,040	6,100	0.5	-0.5
Retail Trade	11,830	11,820	11,890	0.1	-0.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,890	1,890	1,910	0.0	-1.0
Services	21,250	21,240	20,400	0.0	4.2
Government Administration	5,020	5,040	4,710	-0.4	6.6
Government Education	5,310	5,300	5,340	0.2	-0.6
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

Over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 520 jobs, mostly all coming from the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Services* showed an increase of 850 jobs, with 370 jobs coming from the *Engineering & Management* sector. *Government Administration* increased by 310 jobs, with *Local Administration* being the contributor. *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 520 jobs over the year, with 330 coming from *Construction* (both *Heavy Construction* and *Special Trade*) and 190 from *Manufacturing* (primarily *Food Processing*).

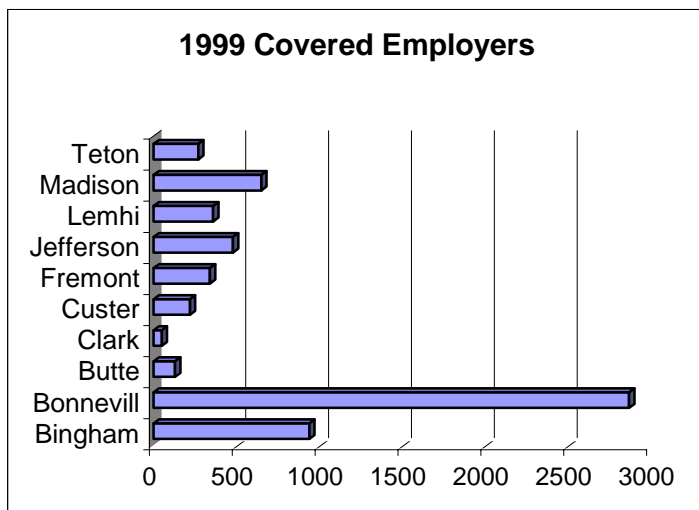
## SPECIAL TOPIC: COVERED EMPLOYERS IN N.E. IDAHO

Covered employers are defined as those covered by Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Law. The graph, 1999 Covered Employers, shows ten of the counties in the Northeast part of the state. Covered employers in the ten-county area total 6,310. Out of that, 8 employers have 1,000 or more employees; 13 employers have between 400 and 1,000 employees; 86 employers have between 100 and 400 employees; 180 employers have between 50 and 100; and the rest, 95.4 percent, have between 1 and 49 employees. The labor force in the ten counties was over 105,900 workers in 1999 and now is almost 109,000 strong.

As shown, Bonneville County had the largest number of covered employers, at 2,867, as of the fourth quarter of 1999. In relation to size of the Bonneville County employers, 5 have 1,000 or more employees; 3 have between 400 and 1,000 employees; 42 have between 100 and 400 employees; 117 have between 50 and 99 employees; and the rest are below 50 employees. Out of the covered em-

players, over 2,400 are in Idaho Falls city limits. Bonneville County also had more than double the labor force of any other county listed, 46,710 in the year of 1999.

Comparing the year 1998 to 1999, covered employers in the ten-county area increased by 3.5 percent, going from 6,096 to 6,310. Bonneville County also increased by 3.6 percent, or 100 employers.



#### AREA DEVELOPMENTS: Bonneville County

- The Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce named a new chief executive officer to replace Fred Sica. Michael Kuhns of Washington, IL will take his place on March 1, bringing with him a wealth of experience from the finance and high-tech industries. For the past eight years, Kuhns has been chief financial officer of an organization highly involved in coordinating economic development in the Peoria, IL area.
- The Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council named Jim Bowman as the new chief executive officer. Jim has been the interim director since October. Jim came to the council from Illinois earlier in the year 2000 where he had worked with economic and community issues for state government.
- Mrs. Powell's Cinnamon Rolls recently moved from the Grand Teton Mall food court to the Ammon Town Center. It is located in the old Bagleby's location next door to Albertson's. It plans to be open by the third week of February. Besides fresh cinnamon rolls, the store offers soups, breads, sandwiches, and salads. The Powells own three stores in Idaho; two in Idaho Falls and one in Boise.

#### Custer County

- Thompson Creek Mining Co. laid off another 65 workers the middle of January. The molybdenum mine is still operating with 60 employees who are taking on multi-disciplinary tasks to keep the mine in operation. The mine plans to continue operating for several more years if they can find the right production level of higher-grade molybdenum.

#### Fremont County

- At the Greater St. Anthony Chamber of Commerce banquet early in February, ML Technologies was awarded the Chamber's New Business of the Year Award and announced plans to triple its employees and purchase or lease an additional building in St. Anthony. The Idaho Falls-based computer consulting firm opened a location in St. Anthony last year and currently employs 15 people in technical positions. The owner, Fred Miyasaki, opened the business in 1988 as a spin-off from the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

#### Madison County

- Melaleuca Inc. held its ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the new call center location on the corner of Main Street and First West in Rexburg. After spending \$1 million on renovation of an existing building, the center now employs 150 people and plans to add an additional 100 employees. It started operation in the new center in January. Melaleuca is a manufacturer and world-wide distributor of health, beauty aide, and cleaning products and is headquartered in Idaho Falls.
- Madison Memorial Hospital introduced their latest improvement in early February. The hospital now has a new \$1.7 million magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. The tube is shorter and wider than most MRI's to help patients not feel so claustrophobic. Previously, the hospital had local MRI services twice a week with a mobile unit or patients had to go to Idaho Falls (sometimes at a tremendous ambulance cost) for emergency situations. This new addition follows other improvements such as a \$3.6 million Family Maternity Center, \$130,000 Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Center, and the Short-Stay Therapy program.
- Terry Butifkofer has been named president for the Madison Economic Development Corp. in Rexburg. He will preside as president for the next two years. Terry worked for the East Central Idaho Planning and Development Association (ECIPDA) for the past 15 years, directing its workforce development programs and developing and managing community development projects. He is also chairman of ECIPDA's executive committee, is a member of the advisory board for Eastern Idaho Technical College, and staffs the workforce boards for East-Central Idaho.

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